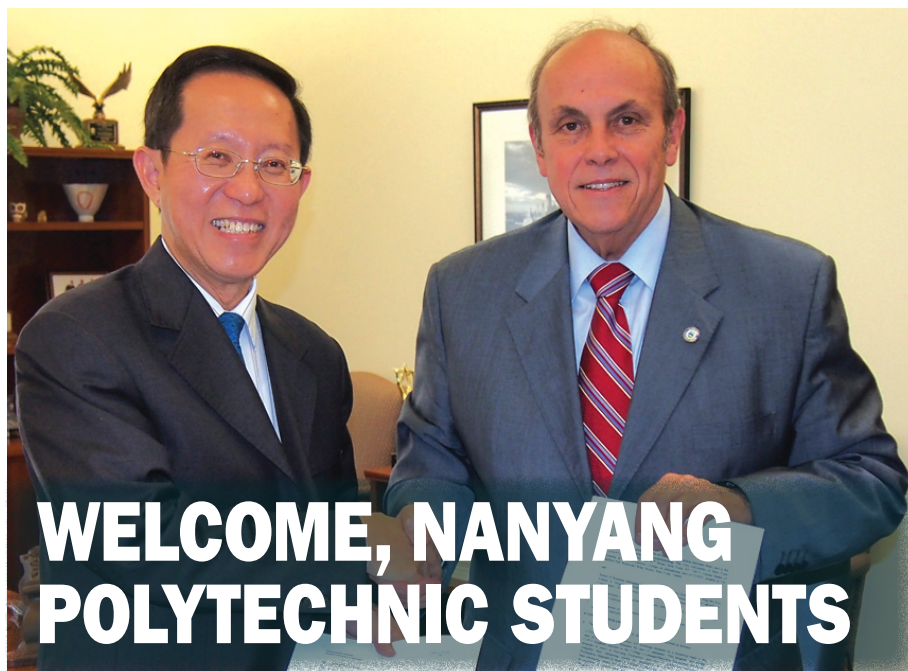


OPTIONS

The Newsletter of the School of Continuing and Professional Studies (SCPS)



WELCOME, NANYANG POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS

Nanyang Polytechnic's Dr. Henry Heng and Lehman's President Ricardo Fernández celebrate.

On June 7, 2013, Lehman College and Singapore's Nanyang Polytechnic (NYP) held a meeting in President Ricardo Fernández's office to honor their recently signed student exchange agreement. The exchange launched in fall 2013 with the welcoming of three students from NYP, who are enrolled for 15 credits in the Department of Economics and Business in both general business courses and in courses specific to their areas of concentration at their home school. Nanyang Polytechnic is a three-year institution and the students in the exchange are in their final year there.

Through our collaboration with NYP and Lehman's Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, six Lehman students will spend one week at Nanyang Polytechnic in January 2014 to explore the world and hone their research and critical thinking skills. ●

WEEKEND/ONLINE OPTION FOR PROFESSIONAL WORKERS

With the goals of increasing job security and employment mobility, the Adult Degree Program (ADP) has committed to include even more opportunities for adults to complete their degrees in an affordable, convenient and flexible format with the Weekend/Online option in nursing. The ADP's features include college credit for life experience, personal attention and advising and a fully supported learning environment. Classes are held both on weekends and online.

The RN-BS is designed for registered nurses who have earned an associate degree and are licensed to practice in New York State. The first cohort of 25 nurses — 125 percent of our enrollment projection — began their program in June 2013. They are employed by 14 health care institutions and their average age is 42. In collaboration with the Department of Nursing, it is our goal to present the model at the HETS conference in January 2014. ●



LEHMAN
COLLEGE



PATIENT CARE TECHNICIAN STUDENTS GRADUATE WITH NEW JOBS

Recognizing the growing demand for Patient Care Technicians (PCTs), the SCPS was awarded a grant by the New York City Department of Small Business Services. Incumbent workers—17 from Bronx-Lebanon Hospital Center and 3 from St. Barnabas Hospital—received their PCT training at CUNY on the Concourse. In collaboration with 1199SEIU, bilingual workers

who were strongly motivated to move along their career pathways were recruited. When they began the program, they were working for these hospitals in several job titles including housekeeper, laundry worker, motor vehicle operator, environmental services worker, security guard and registrar/receptionist. All completed the program and were upgraded at their hospitals. ●



Mariana Gonzalez-Oyola,
student speaker at
1199SEIU graduation,
June 20, 2013

COLLABORATIVE WORKFORCE PROJECTS

BRONX BACK TO WORK PROJECT



The Back to Work program is a public/private partnership between the New York City Human Resources Administration (HRA) and MAXIMUS. The foremost goal of HRA is “to move participants to employment as quickly as possible.” In partnership with Lehman’s SCPS, MAXIMUS offers extensive employment services, case management and worker training to unemployed Bronx residents at our CUNY on the Concourse Center. Since its inception in January 2013, approximately 500 participants visit the Center daily.

A special feature, English as a Second Language, literacy skills and numeracy skills are classes based on work-related needs to ease the transition into employment. Currently, the training programs include contextualized home health aide and contextualized CompTIA A+ certifications that provide entry-level employment in two important areas of job growth. ●

NEW CERTIFIED CLINICAL MEDICAL ASSISTANT PROGRAM

In 2012, Lehman’s Office of Continuing Education was selected by CUNY as one of the two CUNY colleges to partner with the New York Alliance for Careers in Healthcare (NYACH), the Community Health Care Association of New York State (CHCA-NYS) and the Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC) to design and pilot a clinical medical assistant training program. The demand for medical assistants is projected to increase dramatically. The existing curriculum was modified in both content and length and includes training in both clinical and administrative duties. Funding for the program is being provided by NYACH and the NYC Department of Small Business Services; students are being referred by CHCANYS. Our first cohort began its training in the spring 2013 semester. ●



NCLEX PREPARATION AND SUPPORT TO NEW LEHMAN GRADUATES

The New York City Department of Small Business Services provided the SCPS with funding to offer an NCLEX (National Council Licensure Examination) preparation course. This exam must be passed by all graduates of degree-granting RN programs in order to be licensed to practice nursing.

Fifty-eight students enrolled in the class that was held on the Lehman campus in summer 2013. The grant paid for the cost of instruction and textbooks, the New York State licensing fees and the fees paid to the testing center, Pearson-VUE. To date, 25 students have taken and passed the exam. ●



HOMECARE WORKERS RECEIVE UPGRADE TRAINING



Due to changes in federal law and state policy, thousands of personal care aides (PCAs) are at risk of losing their jobs. To retain their positions, these PCAs must be upgraded to home health aide (HHA) status beginning in 2014. The SCPS is authorized by the NYS Education Department and the NYS Department of Health to offer the upgrade training. Funded by the NYC Department of Small Business Services, we have been collaborating with CUNY Central and 1199SEIU to offer the training for those PCAs who are employed by organizations contracted with the NYC Human Resources Administration to provide services to Medicaid-eligible clients.

Classes are held at CUNY on the Concourse, the Lehman workforce development site, with the supervised clinical hours taking place at Isabella Geriatric Center. Since its beginning in December 2012, over 1000 workers have completed their training and became certified. ●

NEWLY APPOINTED ADMINISTRATORS

DR. DANIELLA OLIBRICE NAMED DIRECTOR OF ADULT DEGREE PROGRAM

Dr. Daniella Olibrice has been appointed director of Adult Degree and Professional Studies effective May 2013. Since 2006, she worked as a program developer and manager with a focus on workforce development programs at the Murphy Institute of Worker Education of CUNY's School of Professional Studies. Prior to joining CUNY, Dr. Olibrice was employed at Barnard College, the Columbia University Law School library and Teachers College where she coordinated international programs and provided advisement to graduate students. Having known that the ADP "was very well respected" and being "interested in a new challenge," she applied for the director's position. In addition to managing all aspects of the program, she is particularly eager and committed to improving student services. Dr. Daniella Olibrice earned a master's degree in instructional media technology and an Ed.D. in international educational development from Teachers College, Columbia University. ●

NEW CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM COORDINATORS APPOINTED

Appointed coordinator of the Continuing Education Clinical Medical Assistant Program, **Dr. Goher Murtaza** earned his medical degree from Dalian University in China on a scholarship from the government of his native country of Pakistan. He was formerly the program director of medical assisting at the ENS Academy in Jersey City and teaches medical assisting and nursing at several New York City institutions. Dr. Murtaza is eager and committed to contribute to the growth and quality of the program.

Rory Gilbert has been appointed coordinator of the CE Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC) Program. A substance abuse professional for twenty-six years, he is a licensed social worker and senior vice president of a social services organization in NYC. Mr. Gilbert began teaching in our program in 2002, first at 1199SEIU headquarters, and, in 2009, on the Lehman campus. "I will do anything I can to ensure that students are prepared and committed to change behavior and affect lives," stated Mr. Gilbert. ●

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS



The 2013-2014 academic year promises to be an exciting one for internationalization at Lehman. Beginning in the early '90s with "Lehman in London," the SCPS has offered a wide array of international programs and activities. Our long-standing collaboration with Sungshin Women's University of Seoul, South Korea, attests to the quality and success of our efforts along with those of our partners. This year, we have secured our membership with several organizations such as UN Academic Impact, and have actively participated in various local and national conferences and seminars sponsored by the Association of International Educators, ACE's Center for Internationalization & Global Engagement, the Association of International Education Administrators, the Institute of International Education and Education USA.

Four new student exchange agreements have been signed providing additional and exciting study abroad opportunities for Lehman students. These collaborations include universities in Costa Rica, Aruba, France, China, Japan and Singapore. With nursing remaining a popular field of study, our collaborators are expressing great interest in business administration, finance, the sciences and technology among other areas.



STUDY ABROAD FOR CHINESE STUDENTS

This year, the SCPS has built a partnership with Beijing Wanji, one of the largest educational consulting companies in China authorized by the Ministries of Education and Public Security to promote study abroad opportunities for Chinese students. Six high school and community college graduates arrived at Lehman in September 2013 to begin their training in the Intensive English Program and prepare for admission to college next year. With interests in the STEM majors, they are eager to receive bachelor's degrees from Lehman. Another group of six students is expected to start their English language training in the next cycle. ●

BRAZIL SCIENTIFIC MOBILITY STUDENTS HOSTED

In August, we welcomed six undergraduates in the Brazil Scientific Mobility Program. These students, who are studying in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) fields, have been provided by the government of Brazil with scholarships covering all their expenses. Upon completion of the one and a half years program, they will return to Brazil to complete their degrees. We were honored to be selected by the Institute of International Education (IIE), the organization administering the program in the US. Students in our cohort are studying geology, computer science and nursing. In the fall 2013 semester, all are enrolled in the SCPS's Intensive ESL program, to be followed in spring 2014 by courses in their areas of specialization. ●

DR. CHONGRUN WANG, VISITING CHINESE SCHOLAR

Dean of the Financial School of Hebei University of Finance and Business, Dr. Chongrun Wang arrived in the US this summer from China for a six-month residency at Lehman. The School of Continuing and Professional Studies has signed a general MOU with his university and, together with the Department of Economics and Business, we supported his application for research on excess lending and real estate bubbles. Financial support for his research is being provided by the Chinese Scholarship Council. As a visiting scholar, he has access to necessary resources such as English-language publications, the guidance and advice of Dr. Dene Hurley, chair of the Department of Economics and Business, curricula of business programs and exposure to US lending practices and housing sales. The director of the Small Business Development Center, Clarence Stanley, is supervising the practical aspects of the research. ●



Study abroad students from China, above, with Dr. Mila Ellis (4th from right), Director of International Programs; below, Brazil Scientific Mobility Program students

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER

DIRECTOR OF SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER HONORED



Clarence Stanley, right, interviewed by Bob Lee on BronxNet OPEN, May 13, 2013

Clarence Stanley, the director of the Small Business Development Center (SBDC), has received several honors this year. They include a Distinguished Service Award from the Westchester County Democratic Committee; a citation for exemplary service to the community and the state from the New York State Assembly; a proclamation from the New York State Senate; recognition in the *Congressional Record* (House of Representatives) by Congressman Eliot Engel and the New Rochelle Democratic Party Victory Dinner honoree. In an interview on May 13, 2013 on BronxNet OPEN, Mr. Stanley discussed an SBDC sales and marketing event. The show can be viewed at <http://www.bronxnet.org/tv/viewvideo/2721/open>. ●

THE BUSINESS OF BEAUTY

A cosmetology professional for 32 years, a teacher in the Office of Continuing Education and the founder/president of the New York Hispanic Cosmetology and Beauty Chamber of Commerce (NYHCBCC), **Charito Cisneros** was honored as the US Small Business Administration 2013 Minority Small Business Champion award winner. On June 12, 2013, the New York District Acting District Director of the USSBA, Adalberto Quijada, toured the NYHCBCC's office housed at CUNY on the Concourse and participated in a round table discussion. ●

CONTINUING ED FEATURED IN REGIONAL NEWS

The Office of Continuing Education's personal development courses were covered in "A Joyful Journey: Lifelong Learning Opportunities at Local Colleges," in the Education Life supplement to the July 2013 issue of the *Journal News*, a major regional newspaper.

CERTIFIED EXPORT AND TRADE CERTIFICATIONS EARNED



The Small Business Development Center director, Clarence Stanley (far right, in photo), and business advisors (from left), Prince Thomas, Lourdes Martinez and Benigno Ballena have been certified as export and trade counselors by the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee and the US Small Business Association. This training is a significant part of the National Export Initiative in its goal to double US exports and support the creation of many new jobs. Export specialists play a key role in the international market growth of small businesses and can dramatically help their clients expand their businesses abroad. ●

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

DREAM FULFILLED THROUGH HC4 PROGRAM

The Health Careers College Core Curriculum (HC4) is a college credit program offering 1199SEIU members prerequisite classes designed for working health professionals. It serves as a first step toward matriculation in a healthcare-related degree program. In 2004, **Suleyma Moreira** was a Patient Care Technician at Maimonides Medical Center and began a year of course work to prepare for the CUNY entrance exam in order to enter the program at Lehman. This single, working mother earned



a 3.75 GPA and stated that "Every single class I took at Lehman helped me build up my nursing career. The professors' support was wonderful." The College of New Rochelle awarded Ms. Moreira a substantial scholarship to earn her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree, which she did in 2012. In March 2013 she passed the nursing licensing exam. ●

ADP STUDENT AWARDED A TRIP "DOWN UNDER"

"Sometimes the stars align," stated ADP student **Nora Leonhardt** about her life since 2009 when she entered the ADP after working in the performing arts in Los Angeles as

well as working in real estate in New York. As with many adult students returning to school, she was "scared and timid," but found it "calming to know that there was a place for adult students." A theatre major and literature minor, she has been named a Presidential Scholar along with appearances on the Dean's List. In addition, Ms. Leonhardt received two housing



grants from the LCU Fund for Women's Education. The Golden Key Honor Society gave her a grant to attend a conference on education and leadership held in Adelaide, Australia. The conference instilled in her a great desire to function more in leadership roles and she has plans to do so in the area of child hunger in the US. Her ultimate goal is working in the field of arts education. ●

CE STUDENT AWARDED SCHOLARSHIP FOR CAREER ADVANCEMENT

In May 2013, **Kim Girard** was thrilled to receive a letter stating that she was awarded a Helena Rubenstein Continuing Education Scholarship for Career Advancement to support her studies in the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)/Nurse Technician programs. Although Ms. Girard had earned two associate degrees, she was unable to find a job in her chosen

field of human services, specifically, health care. "I like helping people. I've been like that since I was a kid," Ms. Girard stated. She decided to work her way



up from certified home health aide. This began by applying for the scholarship, starting classes in the summer of 2013 and completing the program in September 2013; her job search had already begun.

ADP STUDENT AWARDED WOMEN'S FORUM FELLOWSHIP

With a single-minded determination "to get the best grades in each class," **Gayle Green-Williams**, an Adult Degree Program (ADP) junior, has succeeded since entering Lehman. This speech-language pathology major and early childhood education minor has repeatedly been named a Presidential Scholar and appeared on the Dean's List. In her native country of Jamaica, Ms. Green-



Williams earned admission to an elite high school. Due to financial circumstances, she then entered the workforce rather than pursue higher education. Later she "realized that a poor girl from the ghettos of Jamaica could go to college and have a career" and entered the ADP in 2009. To date, she has been granted two awards. One was the Women's Forum Fellowship which is given to mature women in NYC colleges who overcame great adversity and carries a stipend of \$10,000. The other was a housing grant from the LCU Fund for Women's Education. ●

YOU'RE NEVER TOO YOUNG FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

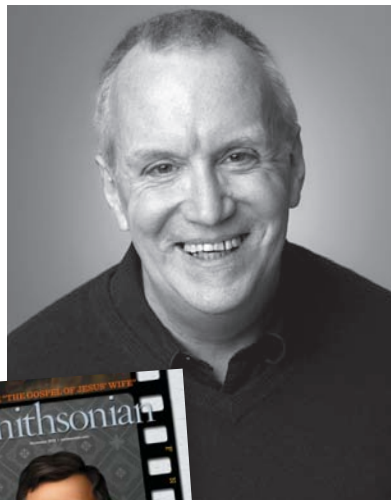
Ten-year-old **Diego Rivas**, a student in the SCPS's Lehman Academy: Programs for Children and Teens, volunteered in a spring 2013 class to participate in making a short movie, "The Importance of One Degree." It was entered in the Sustainable CUNY Video Con-



test, designed to raise awareness of and change behavior in the usage of energy and energy saving. His teacher, Steve Feld, stated that Diego "played an essential role . . . as researcher and graphic artist" and assisted with editing. Diego Rivas is looking forward to additional challenges in the study of computer technology. ●

FACULTY HONORS

ADULT DEGREE PROGRAM INSTRUCTOR RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS HONORS



I love my Lehman students—they're great!" and "really want to learn," said George Green, poet and ADP instructor as he began his tenth year this fall teaching poetry and literature. He was born and raised in a small western Pennsylvania town. Mr. Green began writing poems at thirteen, but stopped and started several times since he was never satisfied with his creations. His talent and the passion and diligence he puts into writing have been recognized and honored in many ways. His works have appeared in journals and six poetry anthologies. *Confederates Try to Burn New York*, one of his poems, was published in the November 2012 issue of the *Smithsonian* magazine. The 2012 New Criterion Poetry Prize was awarded to his book, *Lord Byron's Foot*. This summer, as a William E. Daken Fellow at the prestigious Sewanee Writer's Conference, he read his poems to the many other prominent writers in attendance. ●

.....



Courtesy of Smithsonian

HOMETOWN HONORS CONTINUING EDUCATION TEACHER AND ACCLAIMED ARTIST

Continuing Education teacher and former student, Ezequiel Jiménez (far left in photo), has again earned well-deserved recognition in May 2013. He was proclaimed a "Distinguished Son of the City of Santiago de los Caballeros," (photo) by the mayor and the City Council of Santiago de los Caballeros, Dominican Republic, Mr. Jiménez's hometown. The high school from which he graduated, the Instituto Tecnológico Mexico, designated him as "Orgullo Nuestro ("Our Pride"). Ezequiel Jiménez is a highly acclaimed artist and cultural and community activist. ●



Isidro Inoa

DR. GINA MIRANDA-DIAZ WEARS MANY HATS

The SCPS director of Allied Health Programs, Gina Miranda-Diaz, DNP, RN-c, HO, leads a very active professional life. She has recently been promoted to Clinical Assistant Professor in Lehman's Department of Nursing, was appointed Health Officer (assistant) with the West New York, New Jersey Health Department and directs the Home Health Aide Certification Training for At-Risk Personal Care Aides through the SCPS. As a dedicated volunteer, Dr. Miranda-Diaz served as spokesperson for the American Diabetes Association



(ADA) in an appearance on NBC Channel 4 News, provided education and counseling at the ADA booth at the NBC NY and NY Giants Health and Fitness Expo and participated in the Univision Channel 41 ADA phone bank hotline counseling patients with diabetes. ●



LEHMAN
COLLEGE

OPTIONS IS PRODUCED BY THE LEHMAN COLLEGE (CUNY) SCHOOL OF CONTINUING AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES (SCPS)

Editor/Writer: Phyllis Rafti • Design: N S Design

Special thanks to Dean Marzie Jafari, Maryann Drago-Dowling, Dr. Mila Ellis, Manny Garcia, Bridie Martin, Yeara Milton, Dr. Gina Miranda-Diaz, Dr. Daniella Olibrice, Elizabeth Robles-Rivera, Clarence Stanley, Prince Thomas, Dr. Robert Wechsler, Alis Zakarian and students and faculty who shared their time and experiences with the editor.

We invite the students and faculty of the SCPS to submit news about their activities to the editor for upcoming issues of the newsletter.

Please send all material by e-mail to Phyllis Rafti at Phyllis.Rafti@lehman.cuny.edu. No material may be reproduced without permission of the editor.

For additional information about the School of Continuing and Professional Studies, visit www.lehman.edu/scps.

No material may be reproduced without written permission of the editor.

